

I have seen as representing the diaconate  
look far more  
like bandits than deacons. In one large  
village there are  
at present fifty deacons and fifteen priests  
attached to one  
church!!

The *Kourlana* cannot be  
celebrated without the



SYRIAN PRIEST AND WIFE.

assistance of a deacon. It is almost entirely  
confined to  
the great festivals and the feast of the  
patron saint of  
each village. After the making of the  
bread with the  
" holy leaven/" and certain preliminaries by  
the clergy,  
the congregation comes into church,  
summoned by blows  
on the wooden sounding-board. The men  
stand in front,  
the women behind, all taking off their shoes  
and kissing